

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended): A method ~~as in claim 16~~ for blocking the routing of voice calls over an IP network when a packet loss measure rises above a threshold, said method comprising the steps:

a terminal transmitting voice calls, said terminal being connected to the IP network;

at least one processor collecting data on packet loss for each of a plurality of nonoverlapping time intervals in a current connection over the IP network and evaluating the packet loss data according to a predetermined algorithm, wherein said algorithm computes an output for each time interval that is a function of the packet loss data for that interval and at least one prior interval, and

if the results of the evaluation fail to meet a predetermined criterion, blocking future calls over the IP network path;

wherein the function is a weighted average in which said weighted average for an interval is the weighted average of the packet loss data for said interval and the value of said weighted average for the prior interval;

wherein a fraction α between 0 and 1 is specified, and the weights attached to the packet loss data and to the prior weighted average are α and $1 - \alpha$, respectively.

18. (currently amended): A method as in claim 917 wherein data on packet loss are collected simultaneously on multiple connections over the IP network.

19. (original): A method as in claim 18 wherein data from different connections are evaluated separately.

20. (original): A method as in claim 19 wherein the most recently evaluated connection is consulted to determine whether to block calls.

21. (original): A method as in claim 19 wherein an average of evaluations across current connections is consulted to determine whether to block calls.

22. (original): A method as in claim 18 wherein data from different connections are pooled.